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Senate Passes Marriage Penalty Relief *Hagel Votes to Reduce Tax Burden on Families*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Senate voted today to reduce the federal tax penalty shouldered by married couples. The Marriage Tax Relief Reconciliation Act, passed by a vote of 60 to 39.

Hagel is a longtime opponent of the marriage tax and called for its elimination in his first year in the Senate when he cosponsored the Marriage Tax Elimination Act. He has continued to actively push for legislation to correct this unfair tax. According to a Heritage Foundation study conducted this year, 174,593 couples in Nebraska are affected by the marriage tax penalty.

“This is another example of an unfair and burdensome tax that needs to be fixed,” added Hagel. “We need to reform the federal tax code. In the meantime, reducing the burden on families is a step forward.”

The Marriage Tax Relief Reconciliation Act reduces the tax burden on married couples by increasing their standard deduction, expanding the 15-percent and 28-percent tax brackets, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and exempting family tax credits from the individual Alternative Minimum Tax. The House of Representatives passed marriage penalty relief legislation on July 12, by a vote of 269 to 159.